



I hope this letter finds you all well. As we approach our sign-up and scheduling phases of planning for 2017 Spring Lacrosse Season. The NJLL has released its conclusion and new rules for the grade and age base changes for 2017. As some of you are aware that US Lacrosse has enacted an age based system that they recommend for all programs that are US Lacrosse members.

We do agree that there is a need to make changes from grade base to age base, but to do it entirely and in all one season, may adversely affect all of our programs. We all felt, by confiding with multiple programs for their input that this will create chaos and would eventually lead to kids opting out of playing lacrosse.

We agree that an age based format needs to be implemented now. We have discussed in great lengths on how we can do this, and how it will be the easiest transition for our programs. Therefore the 2017 season will be a format of age based and grade based at each level. The following breakdown for the 2017 season will be as explained below

AGE	Cutoff	Grade
<i>U15</i>	<i>cannot turn 15 prior to 3/1/2017</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>U14</i>	<i>cannot turn 14 prior to 3/1/2017</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>U13</i>	<i>cannot turn 13 prior to 3/1/2017</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>U12</i>	<i>cannot turn 12 prior to 3/1/2017</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>U11</i>	<i>cannot turn 11 prior to 3/1/2017</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>U10</i>	<i>cannot turn 10 prior to 3/1/2017</i>	<i>3rd</i>

Combined levels

7/8th will use the U15 cutoff

5/6th will use the U13 cutoff

3/4th will use the U11 cutoff

Please note if your high school nor middle school offer lacrosse for 9th graders, 9th graders may participant only if they don't turn 15 prior to 3/1/2017.

In closing, our objective was to combine both age and grade based formats. This will allow the players to continue with their grade, but will require players that are significantly older to play up a level. The cutoff aligns to the start of our season. The NJJLL governs a league during a specific season. (March thru Mid-June). This will also allow us to introduce a possible all age based alignment in the near future.

Thank you for taking the time and your commitment for growing lacrosse in the Garden State. We will be have your conference meeting coming up shortly. In each of these meetings the coordinating heads of your conferences will be going over these changes.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this subject or any others please feel free to contact me at info@njlacrosse.com

Thanks and All the best this coming season.

Jim Donovan